DAREDEVIL: YELLOW

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Book Two: THE MEASURE OF A MAN

MARVEL MAX

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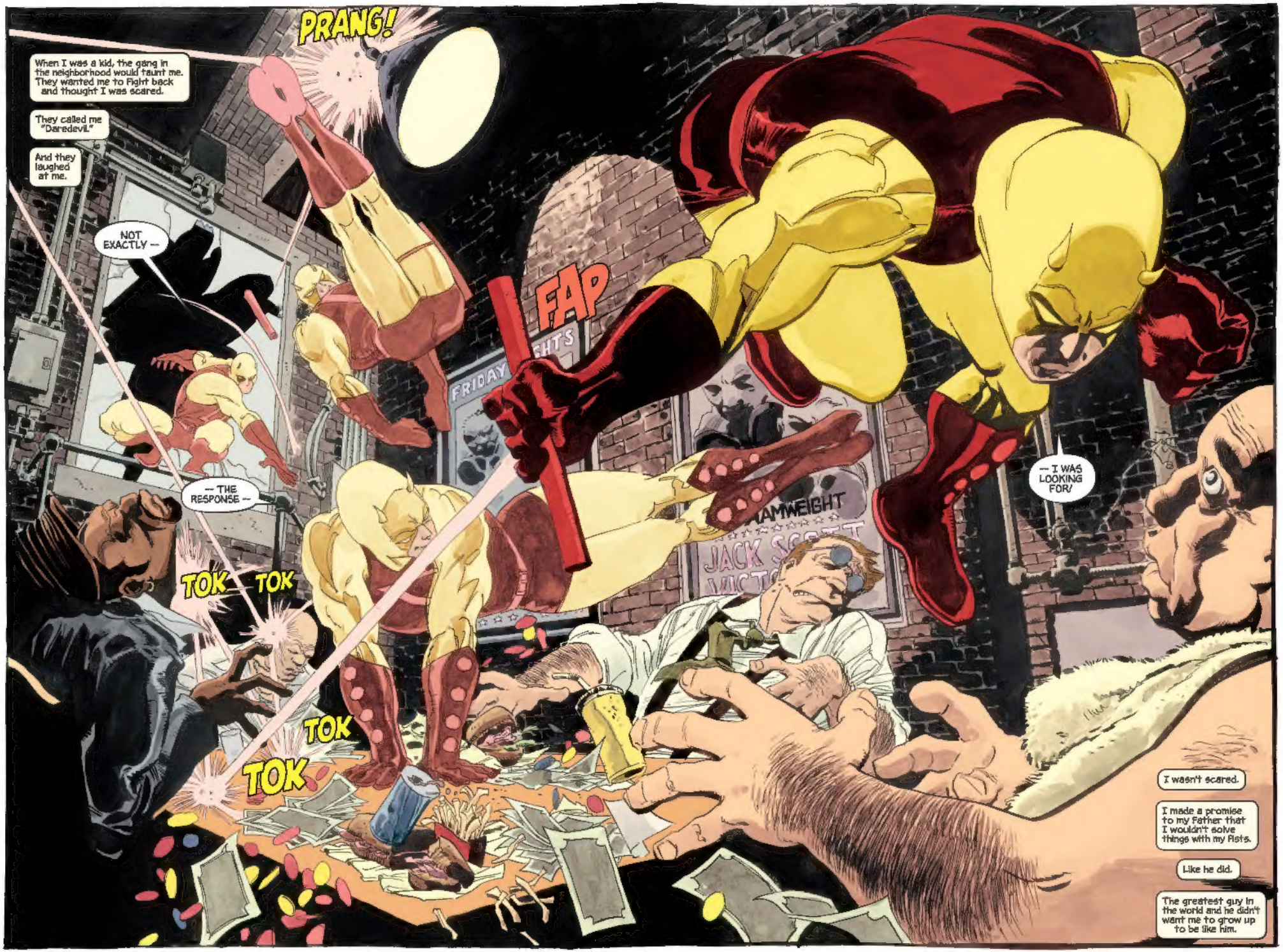
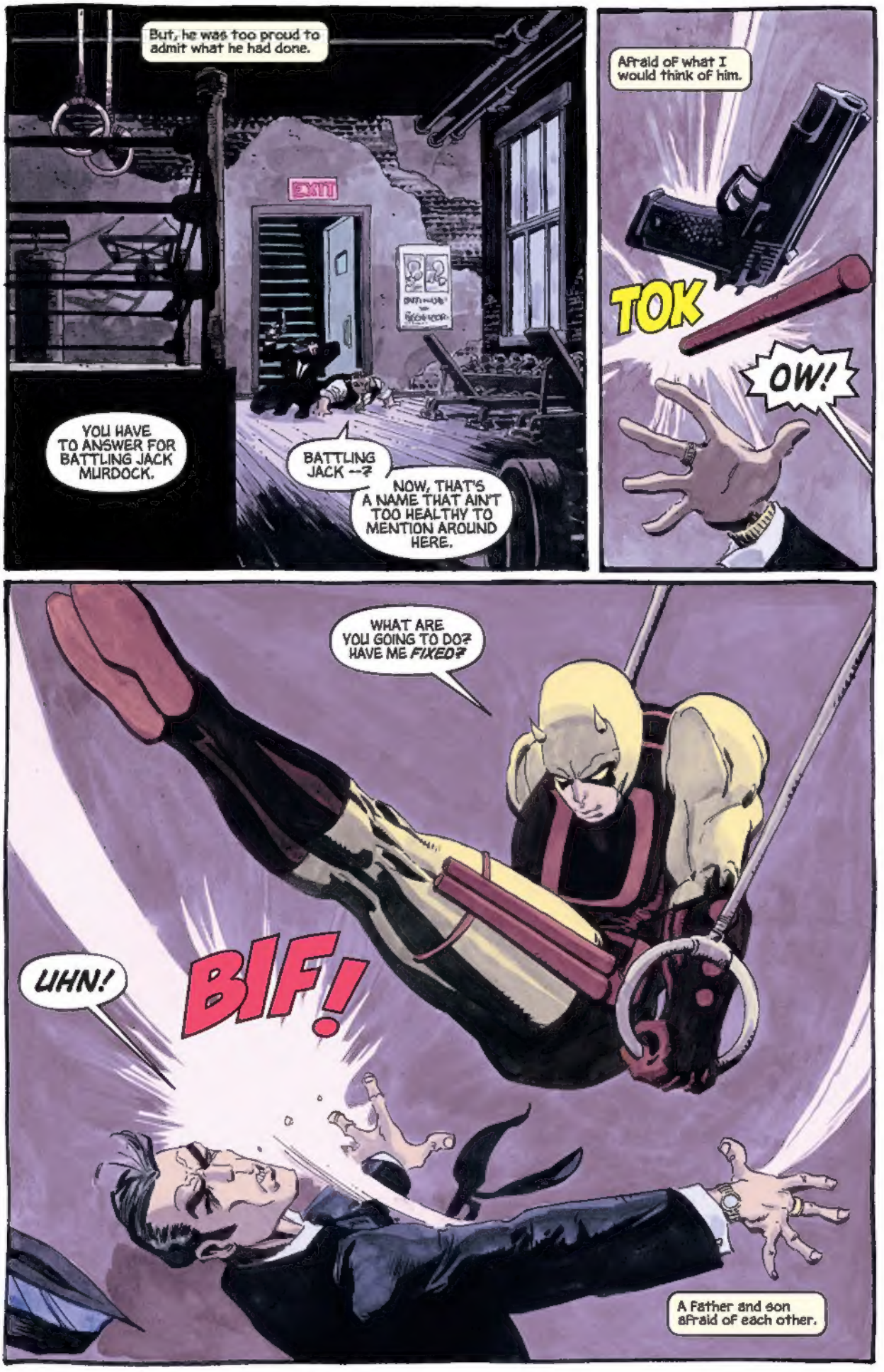
Book Two:
Dear Karen,
I am writing you again even though I know you are gone.
My hope is by remembering the past, I can help myself in the present.
DAREDEVIL.
HAHA
HAHAHA


PRANG!
When I was a kid, the gang in the neighborhood would taunt me. They wanted me to fight back and thought I was scared.
They called me "Daredevil."
And they laughed at me.
NOT EXACTLY --
FAP
-- THE RESPONSE --
TOK
TOK
TOK
TOK
-- I WAS LOOKING FOR/
I wasn't scared.
I made a promise to my Father that I wouldn't solve things with my fists.
Like he did.
The greatest guy in the world and he didn't want me to grow up to be like him.

I never really thought about it until now, but my Dad and I were quite the pair.
WHERE IS "THE FIXER"?
WHOA!
He tried to keep secret what he was really doing with The Fixer, I guess, to protect me.
OKAY! OKAY! PUT ME DOWN!
HE'S COMIN' HERE ANY MINUTE.
CRASH!
And I tried to keep secret all my training, I guess, to protect him.

I was so sure he'd be angry that I was keeping Fit, learning to fight, studying his every move in the ring —
WHO IS THIS BUM, SLADE?
BLAM!
BLAM! BLAM!
DUNNO. LOOKS LIKE SOME KINDA WRESTLER IN THAT GET-UP, FIXER.
— I just kept letting him believe that I was like any other blind kid.
BLAM! BLAM! BLAM!
THEN, HE'S A DEAD WRESTLER.
And my Dad kept winning fights he had to have known were fixed.


But, he was too proud to admit what he had done.
EXIT
YOU HAVE TO ANSWER FOR BATTLING JACK MURDOCK.
BATTLING JACK --?
NOW, THAT'S A NAME THAT AIN'T TOO HEALTHY TO MENTION AROUND HERE.
Afraid of what I would think of him.
TOK
OW!
WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO? HAVE ME FIXED?
UHN!
BIF!
A father and son afraid of each other.

EXIT
IS *THIS* THE GUN YOU USED TO SHOOT MURDOCK IN THE BACK?
I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKIN' --
I went looking for my Dad's killers and found myself back in the gym where he had lived his life.

EXIT
YOU *CAN'T* LIE TO ME.
I'LL *KNOW.*
WAK!
When I punched Slade I could hear my Dad's glove hitting the heavy bag.

EXIT
THEY NEVER FOUND THE MURDER WEAPON. JUST *PISTACHIO NUTS.*
YOUR PISTACHIO NUTS.
When Slade went down, it felt like my Dad had knocked him to the canvas.

It was thrilling.
TESTIFY.

My Dad would talk about stepping into the ring.
SUBWAY
It was more than the crowd cheering or booing that would get him juiced.
It was all about knowing that on any given night, no matter how unevenly matched, two men go in.
Only one comes out a winner.

I had trailed The Fixer for three city blocks.
NAW.
SHUFF
CAN'T BE.
WHAT'S WITH YOU --
SHUFF
-- ANYWAY?!
The smell of that cheap cigar drew a line in my head right to him.

The coins in his pockets rattled like cymbals crashing.
ALL THIS OVER --
HUFF
-- BATTLING JACK?
HE WAS A BUM!
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HSSSS
IS THAT WHY YOU HAD HIM KILLED?
TOK
I could taste his salty sweat without even touching him.
The awful smell of his bladder giving out as he wet himself.
It was like I was inside this horrible man.
OKAY, WHAT'DYA WANT? YOU --
HUFF
-- WANT MONEY?
HUFF

And then...I knew... maybe before he did... his heart wasn't going to make it.
I GOT... ƎWHEEZEƐ MONEY...
I remember thinking, "Don't Fall down -- not before I get to hit you."
ƎACKƐ
"You're not going to take a dive, Mister."
"Not like you wanted my Dad to."

CHUGACHUGACHUGACHUGACHUGA
TOK
TOK
CHUGACHUGACHUGACHUGACHUGACHUGA
TOK
FAP
TOK

ACHUGACHUGACHUGACHUGACHUGACHUGACHUGACHUGACHUGA CHUGACHUGACHUG
Even over the roar of the subway, I could tell.
The Fixer was dead.

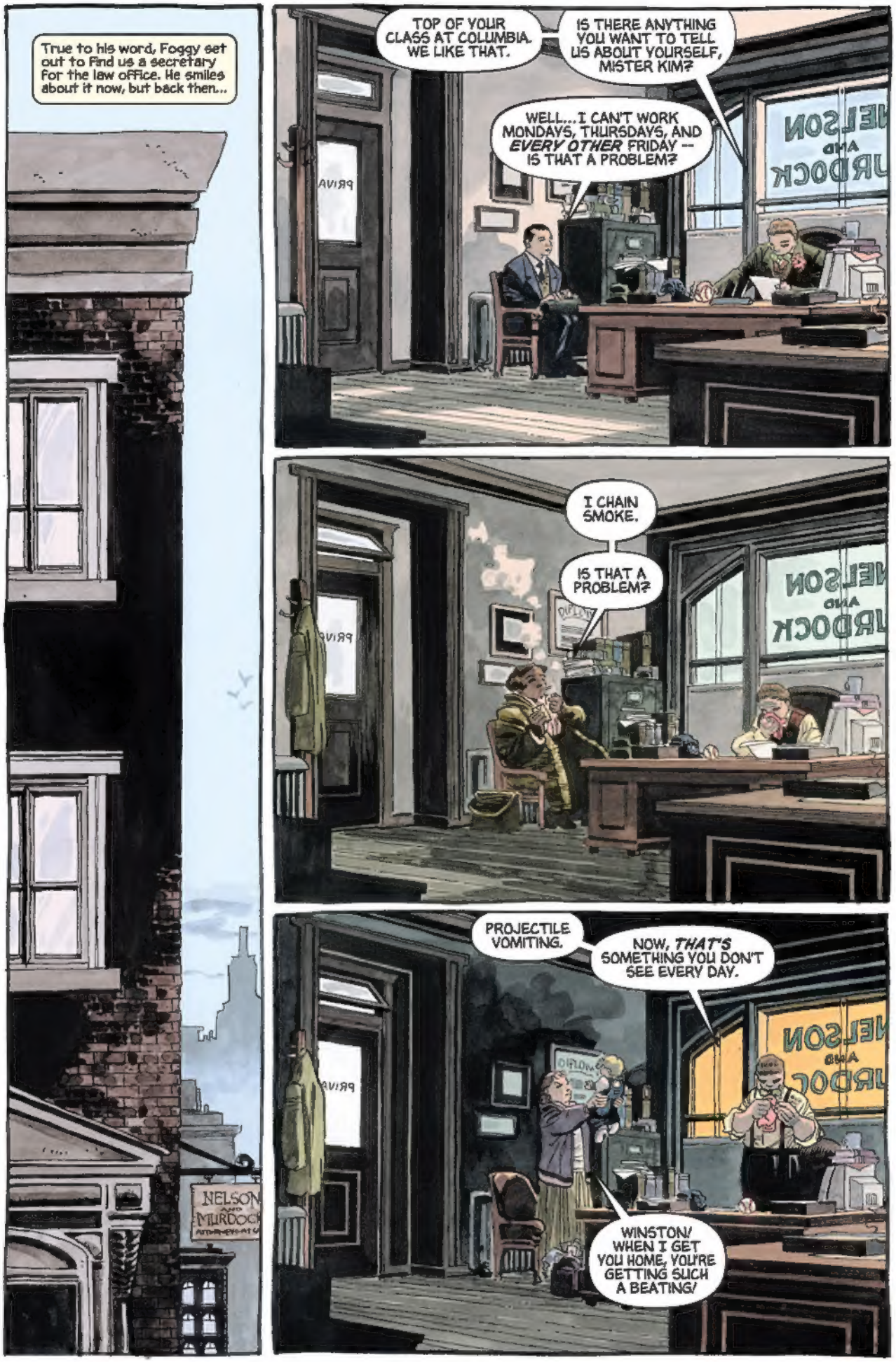
CHUGACHUGACHUGA
Karen. You were the first one to call me "The Man Without Fear".
I liked that -- even reveled in it.
I was -- am -- will always be -- so much like my Dad.

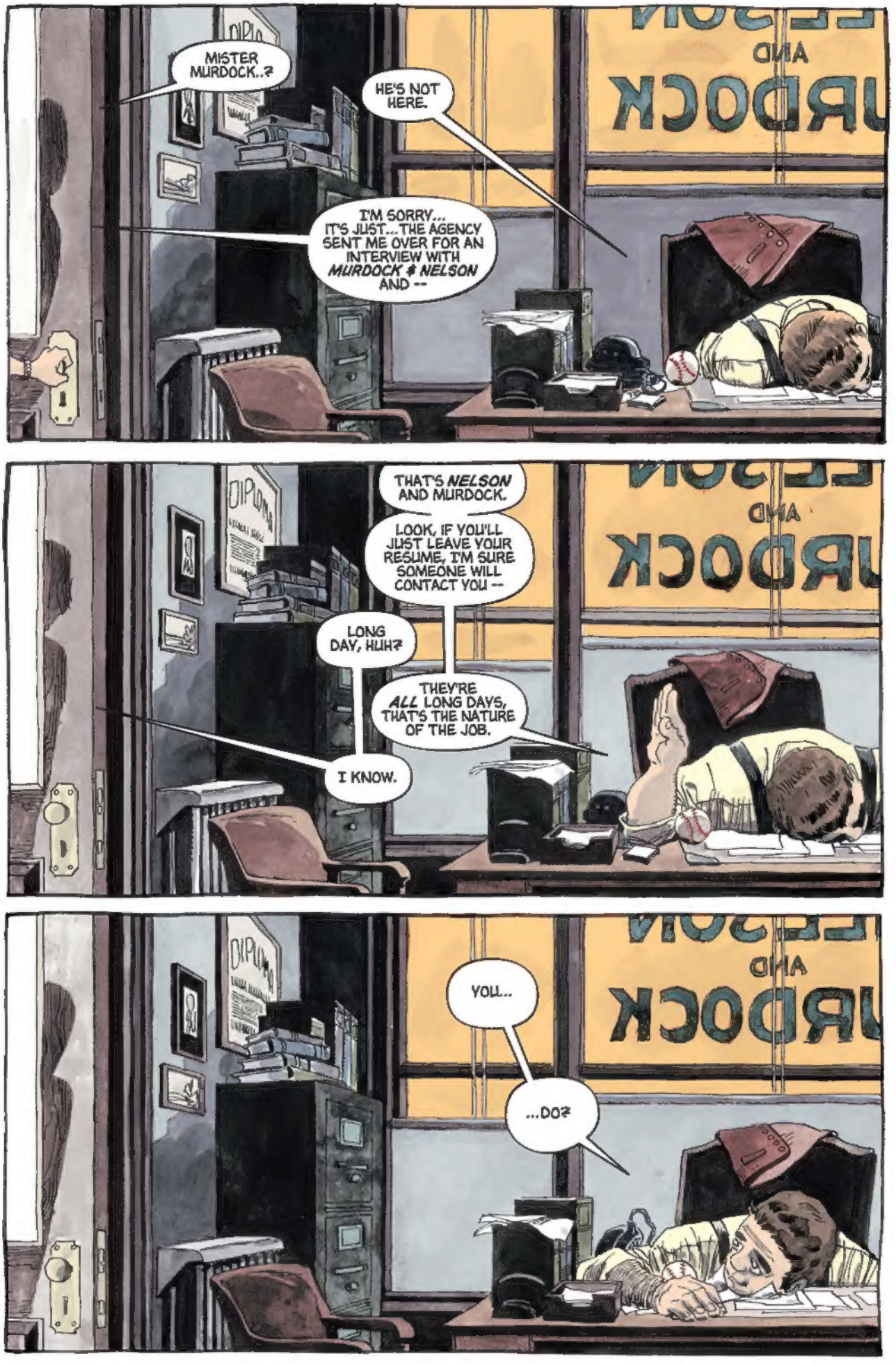
YOU THERE! WHAT ARE YOU DOING DOWN HERE?!

THIS MAN IS DEAD. HEART ATTACK.
HE'S RESPONSIBLE FOR THE MURDER OF BATTLING JACK MURDOCK.
NOW, IF ONE OF YOU OFFICERS WILL FOLLOW ME OVER TO *FOGWELL'S GYM* --
-- WE'LL FIND A *SECOND* MAN, SLADE, WHO ACTUALLY PULLED THE TRIGGER.
AND, I'M WILLING TO BET, THE MURDER WEAPON.
BATTLIN' JACK? I REMEMBER HIM. HE COULD'VE BEEN *THE CHAMP.*
SO...WHO ARE *YOU* SUPPOSED TO BE?

When I was a kid, the gang in the neighborhood would taunt me. They wanted me to fight back and thought I was scared.

DAREDEVIL.
They weren't laughing any more.


True to his word, Foggy set out to find us a secretary for the law office. He smiles about it now, but back then...
NELSON AND MURDOCK
TOP OF YOUR CLASS AT COLUMBIA. WE LIKE THAT.
IS THERE ANYTHING YOU WANT TO TELL US ABOUT YOURSELF, MISTER KIM?
WELL... I CAN'T WORK MONDAYS, THURSDAYS, AND *EVERY OTHER* FRIDAY -- IS THAT A PROBLEM?
I CHAIN SMOKE.
IS THAT A PROBLEM?
PROJECTILE VOMITING.
NOW, *THAT'S* SOMETHING YOU DON'T SEE EVERY DAY.
WINSTON! WHEN I GET YOU HOME, YOU'RE GETTING SUCH A BEATING!


MISTER MURDOCK..?
HE'S NOT HERE.
I'M SORRY... IT'S JUST... THE AGENCY SENT ME OVER FOR AN INTERVIEW WITH *MURDOCK & NELSON* AND --
THAT'S *NELSON* AND MURDOCK.
LOOK, IF YOU'LL JUST LEAVE YOUR RESUME, I'M SURE SOMEONE WILL CONTACT YOU --
LONG DAY, HUH?
THEY'RE *ALL* LONG DAYS, THAT'S THE NATURE OF THE JOB.
I KNOW.
YOU...
...DO?

"FOGGY."
THAT'S AN UNUSUAL NAME.
I'M AN UNUSUAL GUY.
NELSON AND MURDOCK ATTORNEYS AT LAW
DO YOU KNOW WHEN MISTER MURDOCK WILL BE GETTING BACK?
SOON, I HOPE.
THERE IS SOMETHING YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT "MISTER MURDOCK."
YOU SEE, HE'S --
PRIVATE
-- HERE!
Heh.
MATT, THERE'S SOMEBODY YOU'VE JUST GOTTA MEET.

THIS IS *MISS* KAREN PAGE.
SHE'S GONNA BE OUR NEW SECRETARY!
OH.
DOES THAT MEAN I GOT THE JOB?
...And I didn't have to have eyesight to know I was looking at the most beautiful woman in the world...
LOEB SALE 2001